

# Reagan Seeks Bipartisanship on Contras

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WASHINGTON, June 16 — President Reagan, appealing for bipartisan support of aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, said today that a newly deployed Soviet reconnaissance plane used by the Nicaraguan Government had given the Sandinistas "a significant advance in its military and intelligence capabilities."

At the same time, Mr. Reagan told a group that supports his effort to win \$100 million in aid for the rebels that the Nicaraguan Government carried out a major, unprovoked attack earlier this year against thousands of Miskito Indians who had fled into neighboring Honduras. The President said the attack took place shortly after a vote in the House last March against his aid package for the rebels.

The House is expected to reconsider the question of aid for the rebels around June 26. Mr. Reagan told supporters of the package that "repression" against labor unions, dissidents, political opponents and entrepreneurs had accelerated since the last House vote.

#### Uncertainty on Fate of Aid

"The regime, for all its youth and designer glasses, is doing its best to turn Nicaragua into an Eastern European-style Communist dictatorship," Mr. Reagan said. "And this is absolutely inconsistent with the values and traditions of the Americas, and we're not going to let it happen." The reference to "designer glasses" was to a purchase of expensive spectacles by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua late last year while in New York.

Mr. Reagan made his comments as White House officials expressed uncertainty about the fate of the aid package for the rebels, who are known as contras. A White House official said the Administration had not yet gathered enough votes for victory. The request includes \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million for nonmilitary purposes. The House rejected the request in March, but the Senate approved it.

Today Mr. Reagan, in an effort to present the question as a nonpartisan one, appealed to the "spirit of cooperation" among Democrats and Republicans.

#### Call for Bipartisanship

"Some historians believe the trauma of the Vietnam war irreparably destroyed the spirit of cooperation," he said. "Well, I think otherwise. I think America is leaving the Vietnam syndrome behind."

"I expect the upcoming vote on aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters will signal the re-emergence of bipartisanship in areas of national security, and an end to the pessimism and disunity of the last decade," Mr. Reagan said.

The President said that the Soviet Union, "after a brief rest," had stepped up its provision of weapons to the Nicaraguan Government. He said the Russians had resumed direct arms shipments to Nicaragua for the first time since 1984.

Pointing to a photo blowup behind him of an AN-30 reconnaissance aircraft, Mr. Reagan said that "another significant step has been the arrival in Nicaragua of a reconnaissance aircraft with highly sophisticated equipment, which gives the Communist regime a significant advance in military and intelligence capabilities."

"There's little room for doubt," said Mr. Reagan. "The Communists show no intention of compromise, no intention of keeping their promises of democratic pluralism or refraining from aggression from their neighbors."

#### Earlier Fighting Recalled

Mr. Reagan also said that after the House vote last March, Nicaraguan forces made "an unprovoked assault" against Miskito Indian villages, apparently in retaliation for their opposition to the Government.

Reached at the Nicaraguan Embassy, Manuel Cordero, minister-counselor, said, "I don't have anything in particular on the military reconnaissance plane. I have asked Managua for a response on that and they are checking."

"In the matter of the Miskito Indians," Mr. Cordero said, "I think the charges that we are persecuting the Miskito Indians are absurd. There have been reports by prestigious international human rights organizations attesting to the contrary." He cited a report by Americas Watch, a human rights group.

Mr. Reagan's speech today was an attempt to seek Democratic votes and appeal for a "consensus" on the issue.